

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00967 121604Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5392

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0967

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH, US
SUBJ: MURDER OF ZAMBIANS?

REF: (A) STATE 081289, (B) NEW DELHI 5138

1. WE ARE AT A LOSS AS TO THE BACKGROUND FOR FONMIN MWALE'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE RECENT MURDER OF 700 ZAMBIANS BY THE RHODESIAN ARMY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RUMORS LET ALONE REPORTS OF ZAMBIANS KILLED BY RHODESIAN FORCES. THERE HAVE BEEN RARE, BRIEF EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN ZAMBIAN ARMY AND RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES ALONG THE BORDER. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NO ZAMBIAN HAS BEEN KILLED IN THESE EXCHANGES. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME OF THOSE OPERATING AS GUERRILLAS INSIDE RHODESIA AND KILLED IN ACTION HAVE BEEN ZAMBIAN CITIZENS, BUT WE ARE UNAWARE OF AFH SUCH INCIDENTS.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ZAMBIA ACCUSED SOUTH AFRICA OF ATTACKING ZAMBIA IN JULY 1976. THIS WAS AN ATTACK ON A SWAPO CAMP BY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM THE CAPRIVI STRIP INTO ZAMBIAN TERRITORY. THERE WERE ALLEGEDLY 24 ZAMBIANS

DEAD AND 40 WOUNDED AS WELL AS NAMIBIAN CASUALTIES. ANOTHER INCIDENT BETWEEN ZAMBIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES TOOK PLACE AUGUST 11, 1976 WITH ONE ZAMBIAN DEAD AND ONE WOUNDED.

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LOW

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Message Attributes

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